

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0879

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR, CY
SUBJECT: BRIEFING GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND CYPRUS ON
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN POLICY DECISIONS

REF: BONN 5705

SUMMARY: DCM BRIEFED FONMIN ROLANDIS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S
DECISIONS ON ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY AND GREECE EVENING APRIL 1
USING REFTEL TALKING POINTS. ROLANDIS REACTION WAS THAT GOC
WOULD OPPOSE DECISIONS IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE MANNER IN
THE HOPE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY
THE U.S. CONGRESS. GOC ACTION WOULD BE DESIGNED TO SECURE
MAXIMUM SUPPORT IN CONGRESS FOR THE RETENTION OF THE EMBARGO.
ROLANDIS PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THIS
EMBASSY BUT RECOGNIZED THAT GOC WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE
MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE RESTRAINT. END SUMMARY.

1. WHEN WE ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT TO BRIEF ON U.S. EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN ASSISTANCE POLICY, FONMIN ROLANDIS ADVISED
HE WAS ONLY AVAILABLE OVER WEEKEND AT 6:30 P.M. LOCAL APRIL 1.
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DCM CALLED ON HIM AT HIS HOME AND PRESENTED THE PRESIDENT'S
PROGRAM AS DESCRIBED TEFTEL. DCM USED ALL POINTS IN REFTEL
EXCEPT MENTION OF \$300 MILLION LOAN TO PORTUGAL.

2. ROLANDIS ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. PLANS FOR RE-
NEGOTIATION OF THE TURKISH DCA. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER
RENEGOTIATION MEANT THAT ACTUAL ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY WOULD BE

INCREASED OVER THE \$250 MILLION PER YEAR CALLED FOR IN THE DCA AS ECEVIT HAD SUGGESTED IN HIS TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE; WHEN RENEGOTIATION WILL COMMENCE AND HOW SOON A NEW DCA MIGHT BE AGREED. ROLANDIS ALSO ASKED WHETHER GREECE IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR A SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LOAN. FINALLY HE ASKED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE THE CONGRESS TO ACT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON SECTION 620X. DCM RESPONSE TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS WAS THAT INFORMATION IN REFTEL IS ALL WE HAVE AT PRESENT. HE AGREED TO ASK DEPARTMENT FOR GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSES.

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF DCM'S PRESENTATION ROLANDIS SAID PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROGRAM IS A GRAVE MATTER FOR GOC. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU WILL, HE THOUGH, FEEL IT NECESSARY TO RESPOND IN THE STRONGEST MANNER BEGINNING WITH A FORMAL DIPLOMATIC DEMARCH IN NICOSIA AND WASHINGTON ON APRIL 2. HE PREDICTED THAT AFTER THE PROGRAM BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, THERE WILL BE LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST EMBASSY NICOSIA. SPONSORS WOULD INCLUDE HIS OWN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AS WELL AS LYSSARIDES, THE COMMUNISTS AND THE FAR RIGHT. HE SAID HE WOULD COUNSEL PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT EVEN THOUGH THE GOC IS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION, THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE SHOULD ACT WITH RESTRAINT AND LET THE GOC TAKE THE ACTION NECESSARY TO HELP PREVENT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. DCM RESPONDED THAT ONE REASON FOR BRIEFING GOC PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION PACKAGE, WHICH WILL BE MADE AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER RETURNS TO WASHINGTON, IS TO ENABLE GOC TO PREPARE MODERATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERED RESPONSE. WE ALSO KNOW THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND WE HOLD GOC RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF EMBASSY AND THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. ROLANDIS RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY THAT HE WOULD ADVISE PRESIDENT TO TAKE THE STRONGEST MEASURES TO ASSURE NO VIOLENCE ACCOMPANIES ANY DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH MIGHT OCCUR.

4. ROLANDIS WAS SOBER AND CALM DURING ENTIRE CONVERSATION. HE SHOWED TOTAL AWARENESS THAT TURKEY WOULD BE RECEIVING \$175 MILLION IN FMS EVEN IF EMBARGO WERE NOT LIFTED AND THAT DECISION PACKAGE WOULD NOT MEAN "ALL THAT MUCH MORE" IN ACTUAL ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE EMBARGO IS MOST IMPORTANT TO GREEK CYPRIOTS FOR ITS PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE. THIS MEANS GOC REACTION WILL HAVE TO BE TOTALLY NEGATIVE.

5. ROLANDIS WAS QUITE OPEN IN SAYING THAT ONLY GOC HOPE NOW IS FOR PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO FAIL IN CONGRESS. HE THOUGHT GOC POLICY WOULD BE DESIGNED TO GIVE MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO THOSE IN CONGRESS WHO OPPOSED LIFTING THE EMBARGO.

6. FONMIN SAID DIRECTOR GENERAL PELAGHIAS HAD JUST RECEIVED A PRELIMINARY REPORT OF AMBASSADOR DIMITROU'S APRIL CONVERSATION

WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARBOUR. DIMITRIOU WOULD MAKE A
FULL REPORT BY TELEPHONE TO ROLANDIS AND HOUSE PRESIDENT
MICHAELIDES AT 8 P.M. LOCAL. FOLLOWING THIS ROLANDIS AND
MICHAELIDES WOULD REPORT TO PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU. ROLANDIS WOULD
INFORM US LATER APRIL 1 OF KYPRIANOU'S REACTION. (AS THIS
WAS BEING TYPED ROLANDIS SUMMONED DCM FOR FURTHER CONVERSATION.)
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